

Remarks

The Office Action mailed February 17, 2006 rejected claims 1-2, 5-6, 10, 13 and 16, and objected to claims 3-4, 7-9, 11-12, 14-15 and 19-21.

The Applicant has hereinabove presented amendments to the claims including amendments to the language of claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12-16 and 20, and the cancellation without prejudice of claims 2-3, 11 and 19.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 16 all now generally feature a "*damping assembly comprising a plurality of rigid damper plates.*" Support for this amendment includes in the specification at page 6, lines 5-10; FIGS. 5-6; and cancelled claims 3, 11 and 19. Dependent claims 4, 7, 12-15 and 20 have been amended to adjust the dependency thereof.

These amendments are believed to be proper, do not introduce new matter and serve to place the application in proper condition for reconsideration and allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10, 13 and 16 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,879,466 to Oveyssi et al. ("Oveyssi '466") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,819,094 to Oberg ("Oberg '094").

While this rejection is respectfully traversed, the Applicant has elected to amend the claims so that claim 1 now generally features "*a damping assembly interfaced between the actuator block and the circuit assembly, the damping assembly comprising a plurality of rigid damper plates.*" It is believed that this clearly sets forth subject matter that is patentable over the art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and for the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested on this basis.

Similarly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 10 and 16, and for the claims depending therefrom, are also respectfully requested on this basis.

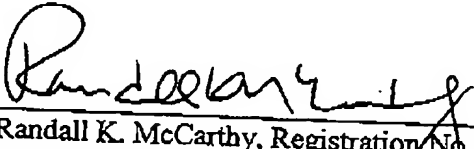
Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowability of dependent claims 3-4, 7-9, 11-12, 14-15 and 19-21.

Conclusion

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the below signed Attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

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